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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 18, 2020

Ms. Bridget Bean
Assistant Administrator for Grant Programs
Grant Programs Directorate
U.S. Department of Homeland Security / FEMA
400 C Street S.W., 3N
Washington, D.C. 20472-3635

*Application No. EMW-2020-FG-01421

Ms. Bean,

As the Chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I am pleased to offer my support for the application that the Englewood Fire Department (EFD) has submitted to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program - COVID-19 Supplemental (AFG-S) program. This application is requesting \$17,767 in funding to acquire P100 level half face respirators, reusable full body nonsurgical coveralls, cases of nitrile gloves and eye goggles. **This application is one of my top priorities for funding in FY 2020 in the 9th Congressional District of New Jersey.**

The Englewood Fire Department is responsible for protecting numerous pieces of infrastructure. The City of Englewood is home to over 50 houses of worship, 11 schools, a bustling downtown, and the Bergen Performing Arts Center, a 1,357-seat theatre. Englewood has also seen the construction of many new mid-rise multiple dwellings, which adds thousands of new residents. During regular business hours, the City of Englewood's overall population swells to over 40,000 individuals. Furthermore, major thoroughfares in Englewood include State Highway 4 and Interstate 95, the most frequently used highway in the United States. A member of the Northern New Jersey UASI region, Englewood is responsible for the protection of Met Life Stadium, the Garden State Plaza and the George Washington Bridge.

In addition, Englewood Hospital and Medical Center and over 100 affiliated medical facilities are in the city addressing the COVID-19 crises. Englewood has nearly 750 reported cases and 50 deaths. This ratio of reported cases and deaths for a City of 28,000 is high. In Bergen County, there are over 17,000 COVID-19 cases overall, making it one of the hardest hit areas in the country. Located in Bergen County, Englewood is at the center of our nation's COVID-19 Pandemic. Without the proper protective equipment, the City of Englewood's firefighters' lives are put at risk. Current budgetary constraints preclude the city from purchasing this equipment without the help of the AFG grant. I stand with the Englewood firefighters in their request.

Throughout my 23 years in the United States House of Representatives, I have fought at every opportunity to make sure our firefighters have the equipment, vehicles, training, and other resources they need to protect our citizens and their personal property. As the author of the FIRE Act, I understand that fire departments such as the City of Englewood's are an integral part of our emergency management system and require our utmost respect and assistance in their time of need. The City of Englewood is an area that is vulnerable to emergencies, and the urgency to provide safety for its citizens and first responders should not be overlooked.

I am pleased to support the Englewood Fire Department's application and respectfully ask that you look favorably upon their request, within the boundaries of applicable rules and guidelines. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Pascrell, Jr." in a cursive script.

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress